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Against this promising background, I would like to discuss with you this morning two programs of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which are of particular interest to the people of Utah. One is a regional program, and the second is nationwide.

The first is a brand new program for fish and wildlife conservation to be carried out as a part and parcel of the Colorado River Storage Project. This is the project which includes the Flaming Gorge and Glen Canyon reservoirs, both of which lie partly in your State, and other storage and irrigation developments which lie in or near the eastern part of Utah. The Colorado River Storage Project is a major undertaking of the Bureau of Reclamation, designed to provide a full or supplemental irrigation supply for 331,000 acres and to have an installed hydroelectric power capacity of 1,240,000 kilowatts.

The total estimated capital investment in the Colorado River Storage Project of the already authorized portions, exclusive of costs of work on fish and wildlife and recreation features, will be \$1,029,000,000. The estimated dollar benefits will substantially exceed the costs. The project will provide a tremendous lift to the economy and stability of this whole intermountain region.

Most of you, I am sure, are familiar with the dramatic engineering feats that are being performed at Glen Canyon and Flaming Gorge reservoirs. But there is another aspect of the project which is less well known but which is of particular interest to this group.

In authorizing the monumental engineering structures of Colorado Storage, the Congress also authorized and directed that an extensive program of outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife conservation be undertaken simultaneously, as an integral part of the water-control program. This is as it should be. Our Bureau has been dedicated to the proposition for years that fish and wildlife conservation should be an equal partner along with irrigation and hydroelectric power, in the control and use of water resources.

For some years now the Fish and Wildlife Service has been working with the Utah Fish and Game Department and the other State fish and game departments in the region in the preparation of plans for the fish and wildlife aspects of the Colorado River Storage Project. A little over two years ago, right here in Salt Lake City, the program was informally launched at a conference of the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Soon afterward the plans were converted to budget estimates, and a year ago they were presented for the first time to the Congress for its consideration.

The fish and wildlife features of this program contemplate the investment by the Federal Government of somewhat more than 12 million dollars over a seven- or eight-year span. The outdoor recreation proposals, apart from those strictly for fish and wildlife conservation, contemplate the investment of an additional 32.6 million dollars in the same period. Never in the history of resource conservation has a similar program of this magnitude been undertaken as a part of a water project. You people in this region will be the prime beneficiaries of this precedent-breaking effort, although all the people in the Nation will have the opportunity of enjoying its fruits.

The fish and wildlife aspects of the program run the full range of conservation activities from waterfowl and big-game areas to rough fish eradication and the construction of fish hatcheries. We are now a little beyond the mid-point of

the first year of the program. For this year the Congress appropriated nearly 700 thousand. Most of it will be invested in Utah. The largest single item is the acquisition and development of an extensive big-game range in the northeast corner of the State. The purpose of this installation will be the protection of the magnificent deer herd that ranges along the north slope of the Uinta Mountains and winters near the Green River. Much of the vital winter range for this herd will be flooded out or cut off by the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The game range will be made available to the Utah Fish and Game Department for management.

This summer a program of eradicating rough fish will be carried out in somewhat more than 500 miles of streams tributary to the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. they will be chemically treated to remove rough fish before the reservoir starts to fill. This is designed to create conditions favorable for a good trout fishery in the reservoir. We hope to avoid letting carp, squawfish, and other fishes undesirable to the angler crowd out the game species--the usual pattern of poor fishing in reservoirs. This is by far the largest program of its kind ever undertaken in the field of fishery management. It will be accomplished by the Utah Fish and Game Department and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with funds made available by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. We believe that it will result in many years of excellent fishing opportunities at the splendid new waters of Flaming Gorge.

Funds have also been appropriated for fish and wildlife measures in connection with the Vernal Unit of the Project. There we are preparing to install a pump in the Green River to supply water for the State's Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management area. This will replace the supply diverted into Stanaker Reservoir. Also at Vernal Unit, we anticipate the acquisition and development of upland game habitat, gain to be managed by the State fish and game department, to take advantage of the opportunities created by the irrigation project there.

The remainder of the current year's program is for the Navajo Reservoir on the San Juan River in northwestern New Mexico and southeast Colorado. There a program of rough fish eradication has been accomplished and a big-game range is in the process of being established.

The President's budget for fiscal year 1963 which begins next July 1, includes total of \$910 thousand for this program. This is now under consideration in the Congress. At the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, next year's program includes the acquisition and development of fishing access areas and facilities to permit boats to be launched on the Green River below the dam. This will greatly aid in fisherman use of the river, which is expected to develop into a fine float-type fishing stream. Across the line in Wyoming, we plan to start development of a waterfowl area for management by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

I have mentioned the plan to have a fine trout fishery in the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Trout will have to be stocked there and in the other new waters of the project. Looking toward this requirement, next year's program includes substantial funds for the planning of a sizeable trout hatchery in northeastern Utah. We expect to develop a hatchery installation that will be capable of introducing up to 300,000 pounds of trout annually. If funds are made available

and our present plans are carried out, this sizeable hatchery will be built over a four-year period. It will be under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and will be a part of the National Fish Hatchery System.

Work will also get underway on the planning for a second large hatchery to serve the Colorado River Storage Project area which would be developed in connection with the Curecanti Unit of the project near the Gunnison River in Colorado. In addition, work will be continued on the features of the fish and wildlife plan for the Navajo Unit in New Mexico which I have already described.

Here, then, are the brief outlines of what is one of the finest programs of its kind in the history of resource development. The measure of its success will be the continued cooperation and support of the people of the area as expressed through the State fish and game departments. As you will perceive, much of it is, in fact, a program of the State fish and game departments themselves. Solid support for the program has been received from members of the Congressional delegation from the entire area. It is a broad new horizon for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife development that promises fine results for the fisherman, the hunter, the nature lover, and everyone else who enjoys the outdoors.

The second program I'd like to discuss with you is the accelerated wetlands acquisition plan authorized by the Congress last session with the support and recommendation of Secretary Udall. Acre-for-acre, wetlands across the Nation are the most valuable wildlife habitat. For waterfowl they are absolutely vital. Unfortunately, to many economic developers, wetlands are wastelands or nuisance areas to be filled in or drained as soon as possible. As a result, at least 45 million acres of an estimated 127 million acres of wetland which this country had at its beginning have been destroyed. Still another 45 million acres have been so altered by man that their wildlife value has been all but eliminated. This means that about 70 percent of the wetland areas which existed here at the time of settlement have passed from the picture as effective wildlife habitat.

The need to preserve at least the nucleus of wetland habitat for waterfowl was recognized 30 years ago. Legislation was enacted by the Congress which led to the establishment of our present system of national waterfowl refuges under the leadership of the late, revered "Ding" Darling. Since that time, the National Wildlife Refuge System has grown through the application of duck stamp revenues and by other means to its present size of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of waterfowl land. The minimum needs for waterfowl, however, call for an additional $4\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. This is over and above the $2\frac{1}{2}$ million acres it is estimated are needed to be acquired by the States. We have been losing the race to acquire wetlands needed for waterfowl purposes; they have been filled and drained at a far faster rate than the wetland preservation program could go. For example, during the decade of the 1950's, the total Federal acquisition was approximately 255 thousand acres, an average of 25,500 acres per year. At that rate, it would take 177 years to reach the goal of $4\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. It seems obvious that, far before that time has elapsed, all of the remaining wetlands would have disappeared.

This situation obviously called for bold new measures designed to reach the minimum goal while there is yet time and wetlands available. The new authorization, passed in response to this demand, calls for the appropriation of \$105 million

From general funds over a seven-year period. This, combined with estimated duck stamp revenues of \$5 million annually, will be expended for acquisition of wetlands to be incorporated in the National Refuge System.

After the end of the seven-year period, 75 percent of the duck stamp revenues will be returned to the Federal Treasury in repayment of the advance from general funds appropriation until the entire amount has been paid back. Consequently, the entire cost of the acquisition program will be borne, when it is finally completed, by the purchasers of duck stamps.

It is to be noted that the approval of the Congress last fall was an authorization only. No funds have as yet been appropriated. The budget request for the next fiscal year, however, includes an initial item of \$7 million for this purpose.

We plan to acquire approximately three million acres of land during the seven-year period specified in the legislation. Of this total, about 1,800,000 acres will be acquired in fee. Easements, under which the owners contract to refrain from draining, burning, and filling wetlands, will be taken on the remaining 1,200,000 acres.

The top priority and principal acquisition area in this program will be in the northern prairie areas where waterfowl production is concentrated. It is these waterfowl production areas where the greatest threat exists to the waterfowl populations of the continent from destruction of wetlands. It is there where the easement program which I mentioned will be centered.

By flyways, our tentative planning is to acquire 270 thousand acres in the Pacific, 260 thousand acres in the Central, 400 thousand acres in the Mississippi, and 270 thousand acres in the Atlantic. This is in addition to the waterfowl production areas which will total a million and a half acres, the majority in easements, in the Central Flyway, and somewhat less than 200 thousand acres in the Mississippi Flyway. These estimates, it should be noted, are subject to annual review and will be revised as we learn more about our land needs and availability.

We plan to spend 85 percent of our funds on the actual purchase of land. The remaining 15 percent will be required for the salaries and expenses for location and ascertainment, appraisals, negotiations with sellers, surveys and the like. This 15 percent will also have to cover expenses of the Post Office Department for the printing and sale of duck stamps, administrative expenses, legal costs, and other items.

We have been given a splendid new legislative and administrative tool to help solve the problem of our management of wetlands by the approval of the Loan Fund Act.

The climate for conservation is excellent. The opportunities and the challenges are almost without precedent. Using the vernacular of the space age, everything is "Go" for the conservation job ahead.

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